

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-03
MCE-00 EB-08 DODE-00 /084 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:WPGROSS:SEB
APPROVED BY NEA/RA:WBDOZIER
NEA/ARP:JZIOLKOWSKI
PM/SAS:AALLITTO
OSD/ISA:GPLUMMER
DA-DALO:RBYRAN
-----101124 152326Z /61
R 151944Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR M88A1 RECOVERY VEHICLES

REF: KUWAIT 4494

1. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY GOK REQUEST FOR EIGHT M88A1 MEDIUM RECOVERY VEHICLES REPORTED REFTEL.
 2. PRIOR TO RESPONDING FORMALLY, HOWEVER, WE WANT TO INSURE THAT TWO PERTINENT ISSUES ARE FULLY CONSIDERED BY GOK: LOGISTICS COMPLICATIONS DERIVING FROM INTRODUCTION OF US-SOURCE VTR IN LARGELY BRITISH-SUPPLIED ARMORED
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CORPS, AND LONG LEAD-TIMES ASSOCIATED WITH PROCUREMENT OF M88A1.

3. AS REFTEL INDICATES, GOK ACQUIRING SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY CHIEFTAIN TANKS ADDITIVE TO CURRENT CENTURION INVENTORIES. VICKERS ALSO MANUFACTURES ARMoured RECOVERY VEHICLE FV 4204 BUILT ON HULL DERIVED FROM CHIEFTAIN

PROVIDING CONSIDERABLE SPARE PARTS COMMONALITY. GIVEN KUWAITI PERSONNEL LIMITATIONS IN ALL TECHNICAL FIELDS, IT WOULD APPEAR LESS THAN EFFICIENT TO OPT FOR A US RECOVERY SYSTEM WHEN BRITISH-BUILT VEHICLE SO READILY AVAILABLE.

4. LIMITED PRODUCTION OF M88A1 HAS INDUCED LEAD TIMES OF 32 MONTHS OR MORE. GOK SHOULD NOT BE MISLED INTO BELIEVING THAT PROCUREMENT OF THIS VEHICLE WOULD PROVIDE MEANINGFUL RECOVERY CAPABILITY IN TANDEM WITH CHIEFTAIN DELIVERIES WHICH, AS REFTTEL INDICATES, ARE ALREADY WELL ALONG. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY SALES, MILITARY VEHICLES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE206405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPGROSS:SEB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780334-0421
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780862/aaaabzvg.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f810f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUWAIT 4494
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1734782
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR M88A1 RECOVERY VEHICLES
TAGS: MASS, KU, US
To: KUWAIT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f810f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014